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Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 11 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am transmitting to your attention herewith the statement dated 5 April 2017 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-06141 (E) 010517

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Annex to the letter dated 11 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic

Today marks exactly one year since the end of military aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh with a view to resolving the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict by force. On the night of 1 to 2 April 2016, in flagrant violation of the ceasefire, the Azerbaijani armed forces launched a large-scale offensive along the entire border using heavy equipment, artillery and aviation. Only after suffering heavy losses in manpower and military equipment, on 5 April 2016, was Azerbaijan forced to ask for a cessation of hostilities with the mediation of Russia.

The April aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh, which was accompanied by numerous violations of international humanitarian law and war crimes, has become a serious challenge to regional peace and security and has caused great damage to the negotiation process for the settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict within the framework of the mediation efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

During the year that has passed since the end of the hostilities on 5 April 2016, the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group have been making efforts to ensure conditions for a full restoration of the negotiation process.

The Republic of Artsakh has been consistently supporting the statements of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs on the need for the full implementation of the ceasefire agreement of 12 May 1994, the practical application of the provisions of the agreement of 6 February 1995 on strengthening the ceasefire regime, as well as the implementation of the agreements reached in Vienna (16 May 2016) and in Saint Petersburg (20 June 2016) on the introduction of a mechanism for investigating incidents and increasing the capacity of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office.

Azerbaijan not only rejects these proposals, but also disrupts any initiative aimed at excluding the possibility of resumption of hostilities. Moreover, throughout this time, Azerbaijan has spared no effort to transfer the logic of confrontation to the spheres of economy, culture and even human contacts.

While demonstrating a complete unwillingness to reach a negotiated peace settlement, the Azerbaijani authorities threaten to unleash another war. By consistently increasing the degree of tension on the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan and continuing the policy of confrontation and hostility, Baku deliberately deepens the mistrust between the parties and tries to make the process of the peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict a hostage of its destructive policy and maximalist demands.

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Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 12 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to our letter dated 28 April 2016 (A/70/855-S/2016/406), I am writing to express our grave concern regarding the provocative act by the Greek Cypriot Administration to grant an offshore hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation licence for the so-called "Block 6" that partially falls within the outer limits of Turkey's continental shelf in the eastern Mediterranean.

I would like to recall that the outer limits of Turkey's continental shelf in the eastern Mediterranean that are west of longitude 32°16'18"E were defined in Turkish notes verbales No. 2004/Turkuno DT/4739, dated 2 March 2004, and No. 2013/14136816/22273, dated 12 March 2013.

In the light of the above, I would like to emphasize that the so-called offshore licence granted by the Greek Cypriot Administration for "Block 6" on 6 April 2017 bears no legal effect on Turkey's ipso facto and ab initio sovereign rights over its continental shelf for the purposes of exploration and exploitation of its natural resources.

I would like to reiterate that Turkey is committed to protecting its sovereign rights emanating from international law and will not allow foreign companies to conduct unauthorized hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation activities on its continental shelf, as it was strongly underlined in several statements on the issue by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, most recently on 6 April 2017.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 73 (a), and of the Security Council, and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as in the next *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

17-06099 (E) 270417

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